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November 25, 2014

## **VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire Chief Clerk & Administrator Public Service Commission of South Carolina 101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100 Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Re: Joint Application of Carolina Water Service, Incorporated; United Utility Companies, Incorporated; Utilities Services of South Carolina, Incorporated; and Southland Utilities, Incorporated for Approval of Transfer of Stock and Merger

Docket No. 2014-399-WS

Dear Ms. Boyd:

The Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") has reviewed the request of Mr. Don Long, dated November 19, 2014, as well as the response of the Applicants to Mr. Long's request dated November 20th in the above referenced docket.

Over the course of the past several months, ORS and Utilities, Inc. have met to discuss the details of proposed consolidation for the four (4) Utilities, Inc. operating subsidiaries, the Plan for Merger and the SC Operating Business Units Consolidation Plan. Based on these discussions, ORS is supportive of the present Application for approval of the transfer of stock and merger.

However, while ORS supports the transfer of stock and merger, ORS is mindful that the current customers of the four (4) Utilities, Inc. operating subsidiaries, such as Mr. Long, may have questions or concerns regarding the Application. Therefore, while ORS does not believe that a Commission hearing is required for the Application, we do not object to the Commission holding a night hearing in the Lake Wylie area as requested by Mr. Long.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Truly,

Charles L.A. Terreni, Esquire (via U.S. Mail) Scott Elliott, Esquire (via U.S. Mail) Joseph Melchers, Esquire (via U.S. Mail)

cc: